COMPLAINT TO THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

2009 HAR 19 A 4 26

Ms. Thomasenia Duncan, General Counsel Federal Election Commission Office of the General Counsel 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

MUR# 6/80

March 13, 2009

RE: Complaint against Chris John and Chris John for US Senate for illegal use of corporate resources to assist his Federal campaign.

The Complainant, Jeanne Broussard, hereby submits this Complaint, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 427(g) and 11 CFR Sec. 111.4, against Respondents Chris John and Chris John for US Senate (FEC ID # C00394445).

Facts

Chris John is a former Member of the United States Congress who, as a Congressman, voted for the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act (See Exhibit 1) and consequently is presumed to know and understand the clear prohibition in Federal law against using corporate funds to subsidize a campaign for Federal office. In 2004 Mr. John formed his principal campaign committee, Chris John for US Senate, and waged an unsuccessful race for the United States Senate.

On or about July 3, 2008, Mr. John used the corporate FedEx account of the Mid Continent Oil & Gas corporation (located at 801 North Blvd. Ste 201, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5727) to pay for the overnight delivery of his required July Quarterly Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission") Report to the Secretary of the US Senate. (See Exhibit 2)

On or about October 7, 2008, Mr. John again used the Mid Continent Oil & Gas corporate FedEx account to pay for the overnight delivery of his required October Quarterly FEC Report to the Secretary of the US Senate. (See Exhibit 3) This October Quarterly Report does not indicate any in-kind contributions from Mid Continent Oil & Gas corporation on or about July 3, 2008, and does not indicate any expenditures by Chris Johns for US Senate or Mr. Johns personally to reimburse Mid Continent Oil & Gas for the corporate in-kind contribution made on or about July 3, 2008.

On or about January 12, 2009, Mr. John yet again used the Mid Continent Oil & Gas corporate FedEx account to pay for the overnight delivery of his required Year End 2008 FEC Report to the Secretary of the US Senate. (See Exhibit 4) This Year End 2008 Report again does not indicate any in-kind contributions from Mid Continent Oil & Gas corporation on or about October 7, 2008, and does not indicate any expenditures by Chris Johns for US Senate or Mr. Johns personally to reimburse Mid Continent Oil & Gas for the corporate in-kind contribution made on or about October 7, 2008²

¹ See http://query.nictusa.com/pdf/891/28020491891/28020491891.pdf#navpanes=0

² See http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/fecgifpdf2/



Legal Analysis

One of the most basic rules of legal compliance for federal elections in the Saltest 2b of America is that corporate contributions, whether direct or in-direct, are prohibited. This prohibition is almost a century old, and is of course codified in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). The Act prohibits corporations from making contributions and expenditures in connection with any federal election. 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). The Act defines contribution or expenditure to include "anything of value" to any candidate. 2 U.S.C. § 441b(b)(2). The cost of FedEx expedited overnight shipping is certainly something "of value" under the Act, and consequently the payment by Mid Continent Oil & Gas corporation for the cost of Mr. John and the Chris John for US Senate campaign's shipping costs must be treated - and reported. - as an in-kind contributions to the Chris Johns for US Senate committee. It is not surprising, however, that Mr. John did not report these contributions, as doing so would expose a clear violation of the prohibition against corporate contributions found at 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a).

These clear violations of federal law were apparently not committed by a low-level staff member of the Chris John for US Senate committee, but instead by Mr. John himself. Under the Act, no person, including a political committee and/or a candidate, may knowingly accept or receive a corporate contribution. 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). The return address blocks on Exhibits 2, 3 and 4 all appear to show that Mr. John personally is responsible for the use of Mid Continent Oil & Gas's resources for his campaign committee. It therefore would strain credibility for anyone to assert that Mr. John did not knowingly facilitate and accept a corporate contribution, in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a).

Under the Act, each report filed by a political committee must disclose contributions to, and disbursements by, the committee. 2 U.S.C. § 434(b).

Conclusion

I hereby respectfully request that the Commission investigate the crimes outlined above, mandate the full disclosure of any corporate in-kind contributions by Mid Continent Oil & Gas to Mr. John and his campaign committee, and penalize Mr. John and his committee accordingly for their violations of the law. Please note that these violations appear to a continuing, as well as knowing and willful, pattern of abuse. Although it is currently unclear whether the 3 violations attached as exhibits to this Complaint will trigger the thresholds for referring this matter to the U.S. Department of Justice, See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(d)(I)(B), there can be no doubt that these ongoing violations by Mr. John are knowing and willful, and therefore I encourage a referral if your investigation reveals violations that rise to the monetary threshold.

Jenne Broussard, Complainant

P.O. Box 9822

New Iberia, LA 70562

State of Louisiana

Parish of Lafavette

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on March 16, 2009

By: JEANNE BROWSSALD

Name(s) of Person(s)

Notary Public: Dail A. Wolat #64901

My Commission Expires: at Leath

FINAL VOTE RESULTS FOR ROLL CALL 34

(Republicans in roman; Democrats in *italic*; Independents <u>underlined</u>)

H R 2356 RECORDED VOTE 14-Feb-2002 2:42 AM

QUESTION: On Passage BILL TITLE: Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act

	AYES	NOES	PRES	NV-
REPUBLICAN	41	176		3
DEMOCRATIC	198	12		1
INDEPENDENT	1	1		
TOTALS	240	189		6

--- AYES 240 --

Abercrombie	Green (TX)	Napolitano	
Ackerman	Greenwood	Neal	
Allen	Grucci	Oberstar	
Andrews	Gutierrez	Obey	
Baca	Hall (OH)	Olver	
Baird	Harman	Ortiz	
Baldacci	Hastings (FL)	Osborne	
Baldwin	Hill	Ose	
Barrett	Hinchey	Owens	
Bass	Hinojosa	Pallone	
Весета	Hoeffel	Pascrell	
Bentsen	Holden	Pastor	
Bereuter	Holt	Payne	
Berkley	Honda	Pelosi	
Berman	Hooley	Petri	
Berry	Horn	Phelps	
Bishop	Houghton	Platts	
Blagojevich	Hoyer	Pomeroy	
Blumenauer	Inslee	Price (NC)	
Bochlert	Israel	Quinn	
Bonior	Jackson (IL)	Ramstad	
Bono	Jackson-Lee (TX)	Rangel	
Borski	Jefferson	Reyes	
Boswell	John	Rivers	
Boyd	Johnson (CT)	Rodriguez	
Brady (PA)	Johnson (IL)	Roemer	
Brown (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Ros-Lehtinen	
Brown (OH)	Jones (OH)	Ross	
Capito	Kanjorski	Rothman	
Capps	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard	
Capuano	Kennedy (RI)	Rush	

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Cardin	Kildee	Sabo
Carson (IN)	Kilpatrick	Sanches
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Clement	Lafaice	Schiff
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Conyers	Lantos	Sherman
Cortello	Larsen (WA)	Simmons
Coyne	Larson (CT)	Skelton
Cramer	LaTourette	Slaughter
Crowley	Leach	Smith (MI)
Cummings	Lee	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Levin	Signatur
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Davis (IL)	LoBiondo	Spratt
DeFaxio	Lofgren	Stark
DeGette	Lowey	Stenholm
Delahunt	Lucas (KY)	Strickland
DeLauro	Luther	Shpak
Deutsch	Lynck	Tanner
Dieks	Maloney (CT)	Tauscher
Dingell	Maloney (NY)	Taylor (MS)
Doggest	Markey	Thompson (CA)
Dooley	Mascara	Thune
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Breel	McCarthy (MO)	Towns
Eshoo	McCarthy (NY)	Turner
Etheridge	McCollum	Udall (CO)
Evans	McDermott	Udali (NM)
Farr	McGovern	Upton
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Perguson	Maintyre	Visclosky
Filmer	McKlinney	Walsh
Poley	McNulty	Wamp
Ford	Mechan	Waters
Frank Brokenson	Meek (FL)	Watson (CA)
Frelinghuysen	Meeks (NY)	Watt (NC)
Frost	Menendez Millender-McDonald	Waxman
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Aderholt	Goes	Peace
Akin	Granger	Peterson (MN)
Armey	Graves	Peterson (PA)
Bachus	Green (WI)	Pickering
Baker	Gutknecht	Pitts
Ballenger	Hall (171)	Pombo
Barcia	Hansen	Portmen
Berr	Hart	Pryce (OH)
Bertlett	Hastert	Putnem
Berton	Hastings (WA)	Radanovich
Biggert	Hayes	Rahall
Bilirakis	Heyworth	Regula
Blunt	Lierger	Rebberg
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Bonilla	Hilliard	Rogers (KY)
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Cannon	Johnson, Sam	Sessions
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Coble	Kennedy (MN)	Shimkus
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Cox	Knollenberg	Skeen
Crane	Kolbe	Smith (NJ)
Creashew	LaHood	Smith (TX)
Culberson		Souder
Cunningham	Largent Latharn	Stearns
Devis, Jo Ann	Lowis (CA)	Stump
Davis, Tom	Lewis (KY)	Sunum
	Linder	
Deal	Lipinski	Sweeney
Delay		Tancredo
DeMint	Lucas (OK)	Tauzin
Diaz-Balart	Manzullo	Taylor (NC)
Doolittie	McCrery	Torry
Dreier	Melnuis	Thomas
Duncan	McKeen	Thompson (MS)
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Ehlers	Miller, Dan	Tinket
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Emerson	Miller, Jeff	Toomey
English	Mollohan	Vitter
Everett	Moran (KS)	Walden
Flake	Murtha	Watkins (OK)
Fletcher	Myrick	Watts (OK)
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EXHIBIT 2

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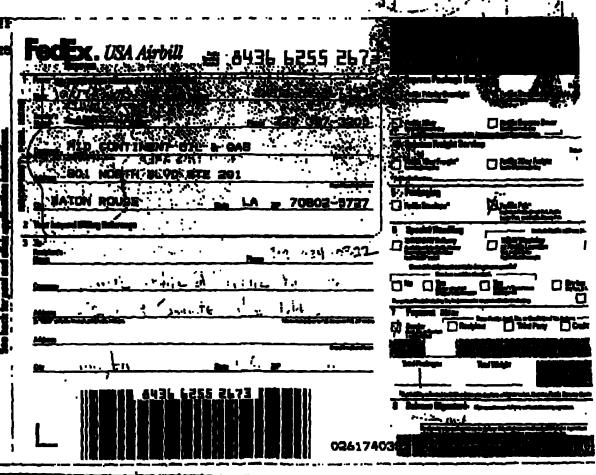
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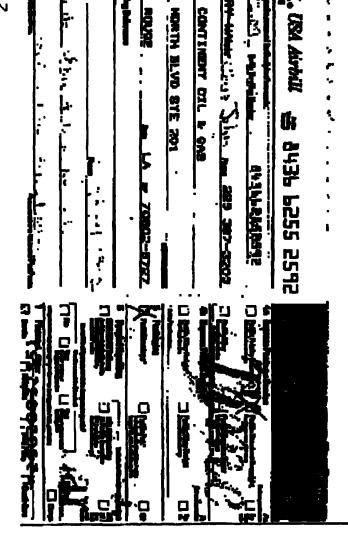
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